

UNCLASSIFIED

E-20

Drafted: EUR/SOV: JVD
7/30/80 Ext. 22071 #101-0393

Cleared: EUR/SOV: WTS: Hinn, Jr.

EUR: RL Berry
EUR/SOV: WTS: Hinn, Jr.
EUR/NE: Hinn, Jr.
S/MV Kennedy
H: Tweston

August 4, 1980

P800106-2266

Dear Senator Williams:

Thank you for your letter of July 23 enclosing correspondence from [redacted] concerning our interest in the Raoul Wallenberg case.

Following discussions on this subject in Vienna in June 1979, the Department raised this matter with the Soviet Embassy twice more -- in July and in October, 1979 -- seeking further clarification of Wallenberg's fate. We pressed the Soviets again in December for a full and adequate response. Regrettably, the Soviets failed to respond to our requests until February 29 when they formally and in writing reaffirmed their claim that Wallenberg had died in the USSR during July, 1947. The Soviets also stated that they had informed the Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and suggested that they would have no further information on this matter in the future.

Given the current depressed state of our relations with the Soviet Union and the tone of the February 29 reply, we do not believe that the Soviets would be responsive now to further inquiries now about Raoul Wallenberg.

Incidentally, you will be interested to know that extensive interviews were conducted with each of five prominent Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in New York City on April 27, 1979, on the possibility that Wallenberg was still alive in Soviet prison camps. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to such rumors.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

The Honorable
Harrison A. Williams, Jr.,
United States Senate.

UNCLASSIFIED

() DENY
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions P6
PA Exemptions

IN PART
() CLASSIFY as
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR
TS authority: 0